

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1201 16th St N W Washington D C



Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney and Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Founders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, organized in 1897 as the National Congress of Mothers. The name was changed in 1908 to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations and in 1924 to its present form. (Glossy prints and newspaper mats of photographs of the Founders may be obtained from the National Office for 10 cents each.)

Fortieth Anniversary Cachet Ready for Collectors

February 17, 1937

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers announces a cachet for the Fortieth Anniversary of the establishment of the work which the Congress aspires to do in the interest of parent education and child welfare. Collectors desiring covers cacheted are invited to send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, standard size (6½x3½). The date of release is Founders Day, February 17.

In order to facilitate handling of a large number of envelopes, col-

lectors are requested to send their stamped, self-addressed envelopes to reach the National Office not later than February 10.

The National Congress will have a Founders Day mailing, using cacheted envelopes, which will be sent to National Board members. State Congresses desiring to use the cachet after its release on February 17 may obtain a rubber stamp or an electro for printing, price \$2 (size 2¾x3 inches).

Executive Meeting

January 13-15

Plans for the 1937 National Convention will be considered by the Executive Committee of the National Congress at its meeting in Washington, D. C., January 13-15. Other important items on the agenda are the 40th Anniversary Celebration during 1937 and proposed revisions to the National Bylaws.

Are You Going to Richmond?

Do you plan to attend the National Convention in Richmond, Virginia, May 3-7? An effort is being made to secure advance information about the number of visiting, as well as voting delegates to the Convention, in order to aid Convention committees in setting up conference schedules and assigning rooms. Each national committee will have one conference. If you are planning to attend the Convention, will you please send the National Office a postal card listing the committee subjects in which you are particularly interested. (See list of national committees in the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*.)

Many states will arrange for groups of delegates to travel together. We hear that plans are well under way for group travel from the New England states and the south. North Carolina Congress will hold its state convention in Richmond simultaneously with the National Convention, bringing a large number of delegates. We haven't heard yet from states in the West and North, which can always be depended on for a good representation. As we remember it, Ohio, Illinois, and Minnesota are usually well represented when it comes to group travel by train, bus, and automobile.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

Homemaking

Consumer education will be emphasized by the homemaking committee during the coming year, according to Miss Florence Fallgatter, National Chairman of Homemaking. In a recent letter to state chairmen, Miss Fallgatter writes:

"We plan to focus intensively upon this one area of homemaking—consumer education—during the coming year. As a committee in an organization that probably reaches more actual consumers of personal and home commodities than any other, we are in a position to render a very real service in arousing interest in the problem."

Miss Fallgatter suggests a number of activities in which state and local chairmen of homemaking may profitably engage and suggests that wide publicity be given to consumer education through state bulletins, exhibits, and other publicity channels.

As chairmen of the Joint Committee of the N.C.P.T. and American Home Economics Association, Miss Fallgatter recently sent a letter to state Congress presidents and state presidents of the American Home Economics Association. She suggests stimulation of cooperation between these two organizations whose objectives are mutually concerned with the welfare of the child and the family, and recommends the appointment of a joint state committee to outline a program of cooperation.

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National President: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy
General Secretary: William H. Bristow
Editor: Clarice Wade

Radio

An effort is being made to secure reactions of listeners to the National Radio Forum on Growth and Development of the Child which the National Congress is sponsoring in cooperation with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Broadcasting Company. Listeners are invited to send their comments to the National Office.

Mrs. John Sharpless Fox, Associate Radio Chairman, writes:

"Enthusiastic reports are coming in from many states. One reports one thousand listening groups; another, six hundred. Many state committees are realizing the value of the course to their work. Health, Summer Round-Up, Humane Education chairmen are recommending its use. Many interesting listening groups are described. One includes three generations, grandmother, mother, and eight-month-old baby; another, a newly-made M.D. and his young highschool brother, a doctor of the future."

Legislation

Two major measures on the National Legislation Program will be reintroduced when the 75th Congress convenes—the Neely-Pettengill Bill to abolish compulsory block-book- ing and blind-selling of motion pictures and the Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics Bill. These are major measures because more than forty state Congresses have indorsed them and are urging their enactment into law.

"Concentration on these two measures and cooperation of all supporting state and national organizations," states Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, our National Chairman of Legislation, "should cap with success the campaign on which so much progress was attained last year."

Now is the time to write your Congressman. Write him again soon asking what has been done.

Mental Hygiene

Emphasis is placed on development of the whole child by Dr. Frances Gaw, National Chairman of Mental Hygiene, in a recent letter to state chairmen. Dr. Gaw writes:

"There is no more important fact to emphasize than the wholeness of any child. Each boy and girl is one human being with a body and mind, physical aptitudes and abilities, emotions, thoughts, tastes, disposition, and intelligence . . . and yet each child is a single individual and we cannot divide him up into parts, no matter how convenient this may be on paper."

Dr. Gaw recommends that mental hygiene activities be closely co-ordinated with the work of other committees, including child hygiene, Summer Round-Up, parent education, radio, motion pictures. She points out the value of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* in dealing with the problems of mental hygiene and suggests that the attention of local chairmen be drawn to this interesting and readily available source of material.

Library Service

A new plateprint entitled, "Your State and Library Service," has been prepared by Miss Julia Wright Merrill, National Chairman of Library Service. Miss Merrill gives suggestions for setting up a state library service project in cooperation with existing agencies. She suggests that State Grants-in-Aid "would not be used to replace present local appropriations or discourage local pride and initiative. They might be used for skilled personnel as well as for books."

Miss Merrill makes some excellent suggestions on methods of work and securing better library laws.

A single copy of the plateprint may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the National Office, or copies may be secured for 50 cents a hundred.

Coming Events

Sponsored by National Congress of Parents and Teachers:

Summer Round-Up Advisory Committee—January 11—New York City.

Executive Committee—January 13-15—Washington, D. C.

Board of Directors of Child Welfare Company—January 16—Washington, D. C.

Founders Day—40th Anniversary—February 17.

Parent-Teacher Section at Department of Superintendence Convention—February 22, 1937 New Orleans, Louisiana.

Others:

Child Labor Day—January 23-25.

National Social Hygiene Day—February 3.

P.T.A. at Superintendence Convention

The following will participate in the Parent-Teacher Section meeting at the Department of Superintendence convention in New Orleans on Monday, February 22, 1937—Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Chairman:

Mrs. T. B. Beclen, Director, First District, Louisiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, New Orleans.

J. B. Edmonson, Dean, School of Education, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Edwin A. Lee, Director, National Occupational Conference, New York City.

Miss Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Albert L. Smith, President, Louisiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, Winnfield.

Dr. George D. Stoddard, Director, Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, Iowa City.

Dr. Willard Van Slyck, Principal, Highschool, Topeka, Kansas.

Carleton Washburne, Superintendent, Public Schools, Winnetka, Illinois.

Fred Wish, Superintendent, Public Schools, Hartford, Connecticut.

"Safety in Pupil Transportation" is the subject of the November *Research Bulletin* of the National Education Association. Single copies 25 cents each.

National Parent-Teacher

The lawsuit which the *Parents' Magazine* brought against Child Welfare Company to prevent Child Welfare Company from using the title "National Parent-Teacher Magazine" for our National Congress magazine has been settled.

Parents' Magazine has withdrawn its lawsuit and has also withdrawn its objection to our use of the title "National Parent-Teacher Magazine" so long as the words "National" and "Parent-Teacher" appear together on the same line and are of equal size, style, color, and spacing. The settlement of the complaint which *Parents' Magazine* made against our National Congress magazine is satisfactory.

As the only official magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine occupies a field and performs a service which, of course, no other magazine can perform. Anything that we can do to increase the use of our magazine cannot fail to be of assistance in

developing and carrying through the principles and programs of the National Congress in the very important work in which each of the Congress units is engaged.

Beginning with the January issue, the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine will go on sale in "news stand fashion" in about 17,000 local parent-teacher associations. The service will be built up until eventually the *National Parent-Teacher* will be for sale on a single copy basis monthly at every P.T.A. meeting.

Local chairmen will handle the sales. The wholesale price to associations will be 8 cents—the retail price 10 cents or 15 cents, as the association prefers. Unsold copies will be returnable.

The annual meeting of stockholders, directors, and officers of the Child Welfare Company will be held in Washington, Saturday, January 16, to hear reports and to elect directors for the coming year. Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, of Auburn, New York, President of the Company, will preside.

Alcohol and Narcotics

A Bibliography on Alcohol and Narcotics, prepared by Howard V. Funk, National Chairman of the Committee on Study of the Use and Effect of Alcohol and Narcotics, has recently been published by the National Congress. The Bibliography lists publications suitable for general reading; organizations which have aids in the form of pamphlets, booklets, leaflets, lectures, slides, service to teachers, etc.; articles in current periodicals on present-day phases of the alcohol problem; and miscellaneous material.

A single copy of the Bibliography may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the National Office, or copies may be secured for 50 cents a hundred. Quantity rates are somewhat lower.

Units planning to observe the Horace Mann Centennial may obtain program helps from the National Education Association, 1201 16th Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

Directed Study Courses

Directed study courses, instead of correspondence courses, are being stressed by the National Congress this year. The same study outlines are used by those who wish to study the courses independently and by those who enrol for a correspondence course. Study outlines are now available on the following subjects: Parent-Teacher Organization, Parliamentary Procedure, Highschool P.T.A., and Publicity. The registration fee is \$1 for each. Registration must be approved by the state president. Students should be familiar with Congress publications dealing with publicity before registering for the directed study course on this subject.

We record with sorrow the death of J. H. Montgomery, Executive Secretary of the Virginia branch of the National Congress. Mr. Montgomery had worked actively for more than a year in preparation for the coming National Convention in Richmond.

NEWS FROM STATE BRANCHES

CALIFORNIA California Congress believes that good citizenship would be stimulated if legislative measures were couched in language intelligible to the layman.

The following resolution was adopted recently by the state board:

We believe that: The effectiveness of the initiative and referendum in California is being threatened by the large number of deceptively labeled, vaguely worded and confusing measures appearing on the ballot at each election;

And we further believe: That in the interests of good citizenship and intelligent voting all proposed amendments should be so closely worded as to make their full intent unmistakable, and that no single amendment should attempt to include more than one issue.

We would therefore urge that such steps as necessary be taken to accomplish this end.

GEORGIA The board of managers of the Georgia Congress has adopted library service as one of two major projects for the year 1936-37, the other being safety. It is most gratifying to know that of the many activities in which this organization is engaged they consider library service to be of such extreme importance as to warrant this special attention. The state chairman of library service, Mrs. Charles G. Trowbridge, has prepared an outline of library service activities, which has been sent to every local president of a parent-teacher association belonging to the Georgia Congress; this outline was also published in the September-October issue of the *Georgia Parent-Teacher*, official organ of the Georgia Congress. Public libraries may feel free to seek the aid of the local P.T.A. in promoting library activities and are urged to cooperate with this group in helping them to carry out their program.—From *Newsletter to Georgia Librarians*, No. 9, 1936.

ILLINOIS A homemaking leaflet has been published by the Illinois Congress to aid homemaking chairmen of local P.T.A.'s in planning programs, study groups and exhibits. It includes source materials in all phases of homemaking committee work. In the foreword, Mrs. A. R. Williams, State President, writes:

"To the Homemaker—bless her—who in her time plays many parts: the wife, the mother, the companion, the confidant, the counselor, the cook, the story teller, the baker, the laundress, the seamstress, the costume designer, the interior decorator, the nurse, the diagnostician, the club woman, the buyer, the accountant, the Sunday school teacher, the keeper of the fires, the house-keeper, and the budgeteer. May she be given the strength, the courage, the vision, and the wisdom to take all parts well."

KANSAS The board of managers of the Kansas Congress has appointed a committee to prepare material for use in parent-teacher associations to acquaint the membership with conditions that prevail in the state and suggest legislation that would provide equal educational opportunities for all boys and girls, and improve the public school system.

The following publications have been distributed to acquaint parents with the school situation:

A Study of Teacher Certification Laws of Kansas with Recommendations for Revision and Building a State System of Certification.

How Kansas Pays for the Support of its Schools and a Proposal for Improving the Method of Paying for Them.

Parents' Study Bulletin.

The Kansas City Council's plans are going forward for a gala Founders Day celebration commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of the National Congress. A pageant of states and nations is planned, showing the most important projects of each, interpreted by a group of women in symbolic costumes.

PARENT - TEACHER RADIO FORUM ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

NBC BLUE NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 4:00-4:30 P. M. E.S.T.
Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National Broadcasting Company

February 3

Heredity or Environment
E. C. MacDowell, Investigator, Station for Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution of Washington

February 10

How the Mind Grows in Infancy
Arnold Gesell, Director, Clinic of Child Development, Yale University

February 17

How Children's Minds Grow
Walter R. Miles, Professor of Psychology, Institute of Human Relations, Yale University.

February 24

The Importance of Music for Growing Children
Walter Damrosch
Single mimeographed copies of talks may be obtained from the National Office, price 5 cents each.

MAINE The Maine Congress has changed the title of its local publicity chairmen to "Public Information" chairmen, because it is believed that this term more nearly describes the true function of these workers.

Mrs. Noel C. Little, State President, writes that the Maine Congress is to have a page in each issue of the Maine State School Bulletin, published by the state department of education.

Motion Pictures

Last month we published an item calling attention to the erroneous information in *Scholastic* magazine concerning the stand of the National Congress on compulsory block-booking and blind-selling of motion picture films. Since then we have received a telegram regretting the error, and Editor M. S. Robinson called at the National Office to assure us that every effort would be made to publicize our true position. Dr. Edgar Dale, National Chairman of Motion Pictures, has supplied *Scholastic* with information about our motion picture program. This will be published in *Scholastic* at an early date.